

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:FZBROWN:AVW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 102023 TOSEC 110228

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY BRIEFING, APRIL 27

NO. 20

1. AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI: SPOKESMAN DECLARED FLAP ON WILKOWSKI "RESIGNATION" WAS RESULT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR. HAVING BEEN AT POST FOR OVER 3 YEARS, AMBASSADOR WAS UP FOR ROUTINE CONSIDERATION FOR REASSIGNMENT, AND PAPERWORK GOT OUT OF PHASE. AMBASSADOR REMAINS AT POST AND ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROWN'S SCHEDULE VERY CROWDED AND THAT THIS WOULD PRECLUDE CHANCE FOR MEETING PRESS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SPOKESMAN AGREED TO CHECK STATUS OF INVESTIGATION INTO SINKING OF CUBAN FISHING VESSEL.

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4. MOSCOW MICROWAVES: SPOKESMAN TOOK PROLONGED GRILLING ON MOSCOW SITUATION ALONG MUCH THE SAME LINES AS FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH BRIEFINGS. QUESTIONS INCLUDED, HOW MANY FSO'S AND DEPENDENTS HAVE ASKED DEPT FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL

ATTENTION RELATING TO POSSIBLE RADIATION DANGER; WHY THE DEPT SO DEFENSIVE ABOUT SITUATION IN MOSCOW; IS DEPT REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE IN MOSCOW OR WITH POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATION; WHAT LEVEL AND WHERE ARE NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE; HOW MANY CASES OF WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION BEING PROCESSED; TIME FRAME FOR CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS; AND NUMBER OF TRANSFERS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS OF EMBASSY MOSCOW.

5. IN REPLY TO ALL OF ABOVE, SPOKESMAN STUCK TO STANDARD LINE THAT OUR OVERWHELMING CONCERN IS WITH HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW AND THAT U.S. IS IN PROCESS OF VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS ON SITUATION AND, WHICH WE DO NOT WISH TO UPSET. QUESTIONERS WERE REFERRED TO PREVIOUS BRIEFINGS, PARTICULARLY FEBRUARY 27 FUNSETH SESSION, BUT SEVERAL QUESTIONS REQUIRING UPDATE WERE TAKEN. IN REPLY TO QUESTION "IS THERE ANY CONNECTION WITH DOMESTIC POLITICS IN YOUR RETICENCE (TO DISCUS MOSCOW SITUATION)", SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH DOMESTIC POLITICS.

6. SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHINA: ASKED IF U.S. ACQUIESCING IN SALES BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE (GELB ARTICLE SUNDAY APRIL 25, NYTIMES), SPOKESMAN DECLARED THAT SPECIFIC DETAILS ON INTERNAL DELIBERATIONS OF COCOM ARE BY AGREEMENT AMONG COUNTRIES INVOLVED NOT DISCLOSED AND THAT IN BOTH CASES RAISED BY GELB, AFTER NEWS OF PROPOSED SALES REACHED US, WE SOUGHT BILATERALLY TO PERSUADE SELLERS TO USE COCOM PROCEDURE. SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT OUR ATTITUDE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAD THIS PROCEDURE BEEN USED. SPOKESMAN WAS PRESSED TO DEFINE ATTITUDE OF U.S. TOWARDS THESE SALES AND WHAT FORM ANY "PROTESTS" TOOK. SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO CHARACTERIZE OUR ATTITUDE AS "PROTEST" AND REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER OR NOT U.S. WOULD GO UNCLASSIFIED

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THROUGH COCOM SHOULD IT THEORETICALLY WISH TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHINA. SEVERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING LEGAL TECHNICALITIES OF SALES WERE TAKEN.

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